

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



PRESS RELEASE

**U.S. GOVERNMENT FOOD AID ARRIVES AT CHITTAGONG PORT
ON THE “ITB PHILADELPHIA”**

***TWENTY SIX THOUSAND METRIC TONS OF WHEAT TO FEED SCHOOL CHILDREN AND
CYCLONE SIDR VICTIMS***

DHAKA – SEPTEMBER 3: U.S. Government food aid, worth approximately \$17 million, arrived at the Chittagong port on September 1st aboard the “ITB Philadelphia,” a U.S.-registered vessel. The consignment, carrying 26,000 metric tons of wheat, will be used for the United Nation’s World Food Program’s (WFP) national school feeding program and to ensure food availability to the poorest of the poor living in the cyclone Sidr-affected areas.

More than half of the wheat from this shipment (14,887 MT) will be used to assist Sidr-affected families through general food distribution programs and Food for Work programs. These resources will ensure food availability for 1.5 million people affected by Cyclone Sidr in the twelve worst affected districts. The remaining wheat will be used to produce fortified high energy biscuits that will be distributed to approximately 350,000 primary school students. This U.S. Government assistance, administered by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is part of the additional \$40 million of food aid announced by U.S. Ambassador Moriarty in May. This food aid to victims of cyclone Sidr is a direct response to the food security assessment completed by the WFP.

In 2008, the United States Government will provide \$176 million in development assistance to Bangladesh. The United States Government has provided more than \$5 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since 1971, more than one half of which was in the form of food aid. The U.S. Government’s assistance to Bangladesh includes support for free, fair and credible elections and more transparent and accountable governance; assistance for a better educated, healthier and more productive population; funding to increase economic opportunities through equitable economic growth; food assistance; and support for disaster mitigation.

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GR/2008

Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)

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